



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : A61L 27/00	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/52570 (43) International Publication Date: 21 October 1999 (21.10.99)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/07363 (22) International Filing Date: 1 April 1999 (01.04.99) (30) Priority Data: 60/081,842 15 April 1998 (15.04.98) US (71) Applicant: ALCON LABORATORIES, INC. [US/US]; R & D Counsel Q-148, 6201 South Freeway, Fort Worth, TX 76134-2099 (US). (72) Inventors: SHEETS, John, W., Jr.; 4001 Sarita, Fort Worth, TX 76109 (US). LEBOEUF, Albert, R.; 7861 Mahonia, Fort Worth, TX 76133 (US). PATEL, Anilbhai, S.; 4202 Brownwood, Arlington, TX 76017 (US). KARAKELLE, Muthu; 6713 Glen Meadow Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76132 (US). VAN NOY, Stephen, J.; 4709 Ranch View Road, Fort Worth, TX 76109 (US). (74) Agents: RYAN, Patrick, M. et al.; R & D Counsel Q-148, 6201 South Freeway, Fort Worth, TX 76134-2099 (US).		(81) Designated States: AU, BR, CA, CN, JP, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>
(54) Title: INTRAOCULAR LENS COATING COMPOSITIONS (57) Abstract Intraocular lens coating compositions for reducing the risk of posterior capsule opacification are disclosed.		

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INTRAOCULAR LENS COATING COMPOSITIONS --

5 FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to intraocular lenses. In particular, the present invention relates to intraocular lens coating compositions for reducing the risk of posterior capsule opacification.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Foldable intraocular lens ("IOL") materials can generally be divided into three categories: silicone materials, hydrogel materials, and non-hydrogel acrylic materials. Many materials in each category are known. See, for example, Foldable Intraocular Lenses, Ed. Martin et al., Slack Incorporated, Thorofare, New Jersey (1993). Biocompatibility varies among different IOL materials within and among each category.

20 One measure of biocompatibility for an IOL can be the incidence of posterior capsule opacification ("PCO"). A number of factors may be involved in causing and/or controlling PCO. For example, the design and edge sharpness of an IOL may be a factor. See, Nagamoto et al., J. Cataract Refract. Surg., 23:866-872 (1997); and Nagata et al., Jpn. J. Ophthalmol., 40:397-403 (1996).
25 See, also, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,549,670 and 5,693,094. Another factor appears to be the lens material itself. See, for example, Mandle, "Acrylic lenses cause less posterior capsule opacification than PMMA, silicone IOLs," Ocular Surgery News, Vol. 14. No. 15, p. 23 (1996). See, also, Oshika, et al., "Two Year Clinical Study of a Soft Acrylic Intraocular Lens," J. Cataract. Refract. Surg., 22:104-109 (1996);
30 and Ursell et al., "Relationship Between Intraocular Lens Biomaterials and Posterior Capsule Opacification," J. Cataract Refract. Surg., 24:352-360 (1998).

One method of addressing the PCO problem involves administering a pharmaceutical agent to the capsular bag area at the time of, or immediately

after, extracapsular cataract extraction. See, for example, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,576,345 (pharmaceutical agent = the cytotoxic agent taxol or an ophthalmically acceptable derivative); 4,515,794; and 5,370,687. Alternatively, the pharmaceutical agent may be tethered to the surface of the IOL material. See, for example, U.S. Patent No. 4,918,165. The pharmaceutical agents are intended to kill or prevent the growth of proliferating cells that might cause PCO or "secondary cataracts." Yet another method involves the physical destruction or removal of lens epithelial cells. See, Saika et al., J. Cataract Refract. Surg., 23:1528-1531 (1997).

Another method of addressing PCO is the prophylactic laser therapy method disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,733,276. According to this method, the lens capsule is irradiated with laser irradiation to destroy cells which remain in the lens capsule after extraction of a cataract.

Other methods theorized for reducing the risk of PCO involve adhering the posterior capsule to the IOL at the time of implantation, as in U.S. Patent No. 5,002,571. According to the '571 patent, a non-biological glue or, preferably, a biological glue, such as fibrin, collagen, or mussel glue, is used to adhere the posterior lens capsule to the posterior surface of an IOL. The glue may be applied over the entire posterior surface of the IOL or just as an annulus around the outer perimeter of the posterior surface of the IOL.

In contrast, U.S. 5,375,611 discloses a method of reducing the risk of PCO by preventing the adherence of the posterior capsule to the IOL. According to the '611 patent, the posterior surface of the lens capsule itself is chemically modified at the time of extracapsular cataract extraction. The chemical modification is achieved by depositing a water-insoluble stable or permanent layer of a cell attachment preventing compound onto the posterior surface of the lens capsule. The stable or permanent layer may be a polymer, such as polyethylene glycol, polysaccharides, polyethylenepropylene glycol, and polyvinyl alcohols.

What is needed is a method of making IOLs made of materials having relatively high PCO rates more biocompatible by reducing the risk of PCO.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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The present invention relates to IOL coating compositions for making IOL materials more biocompatible. More specifically, the present invention relates to a coated intraocular lens comprising a substrate material and a coating material for making the intraocular lens more biocompatible and reducing the risk of posterior capsule opacification, wherein the coating material is different than the substrate material and the coating material consists essentially of at least two aryl acrylic hydrophobic monomers.

The present invention also relates to a method for reducing the risk of PCO. The method comprises implanting an IOL containing a posterior surface coating consisting essentially of at least two aryl acrylic hydrophobic monomers.

The present invention also relates to a method of applying coating compositions comprising at least two aryl acrylic hydrophobic monomers to an IOL. The method of applying the coating comprises the steps of polymerizing the coating material to form an uncross-linked polymer, dissolving the uncross-linked polymerized material to form a coating solution, applying the coating solution to the IOL, and securing the coating to the IOL's surface.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

According to the present invention, IOL's are coated with a composition consisting essentially of at least two monomers of Formula I below.



- wherein: X is H or CH₃;
 m is 0-10;
 Y is nothing, O, S, or NR wherein R is H, CH₃, C_nH_{2n+1} (n=1-10) iso OC₃H₇, C₆H₅, or CH₂C₆H₅;
 Ar is any aromatic ring which can be unsubstituted or substituted with CH₃, C₂H₅, n-C₃H₇, iso-C₃H₇, OCH₃, C₆H₁₁, Cl, Br, C₆H₅, or CH₂C₆H₅.

Monomers of Formula I are known and include, but are not limited to: 2-phenoxyethyl acrylate; 2-phenylethylthio acrylate; 2-phenylethylamino acrylate; phenyl acrylate; benzyl acrylate; 2-phenylethyl acrylate; 3-phenylpropyl acrylate; 3-phenoxypropyl acrylate; 4-phenylbutyl acrylate; 4-phenoxybutyl acrylate; 4-methylphenyl acrylate; 4-methylbenzyl acrylate; 2-2-methylphenylethyl acrylate; 2-3-methylphenylethyl acrylate; 2-4-methylphenylethyl acrylate; and their corresponding methacrylate compounds. These acrylic/methacrylic monomers and others are disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,290,892, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

Preferred monomers of Formula I are those where m is 2-4; Y is nothing or O; and Ar is phenyl. Most preferred are 2-phenylethyl acrylate; 2-phenoxyethyl acrylate; 3-phenylpropyl acrylate; 3-phenoxypropyl acrylate; 4-phenylbutyl acrylate; 4-phenoxybutyl acrylate; and their corresponding methacrylate compounds. The IOL coating compositions of the present invention preferably contain at least one monomer of Formula I that is a methacrylate monomer (X = CH₃) and at least one monomer of Formula I that is an acrylate monomer (X = H). Most preferred are coating compositions consisting essentially of at least

one monomer of Formula I that is a methacrylate monomer ($X = \text{CH}_3$) and at least one monomer of Formula I that is an acrylate monomer ($X = \text{H}$), wherein the total amount of the acrylate monomer(s) of Formula I is greater than the total amount of methacrylate monomer(s) of Formula I. In one preferred embodiment, the IOL coating composition consists essentially of 2-phenylethyl acrylate and 2-phenylethyl methacrylate, and more preferably, about 65 % (w/w) of 2-phenylethylacrylate and about 30 % (w/w) of 2-phenylethyl methacrylate.

The IOL coating compositions also comprise a first stage polymerization initiator selected from the group consisting of thermal initiators and photoinitiators. The first stage polymerization initiator should be chosen such that it can be activated without causing cross-linking. In the event that the IOL coating composition contains a second stage cross-linking agent prior to stage 1 polymerization and the first stage polymerization initiator is selected from the group consisting of low-temperature thermal initiators and photoinitiators. As used herein, "low-temperature thermal initiator" means a thermal initiator that has an activation temperature lower than the activation temperature of the chosen second stage cross-linking agent. Suitable low temperature thermal initiators include azo free-radical initiators, such as 2,2'-azobis(isobutyronitrile) ["AIBN"] and 2,2'-azobis(2,4-dimethylvaleronitrile). Suitable photoinitiators include UV- and blue-light photoinitiators. Many such photoinitiators are known. Preferred blue-light photoinitiators are benzoylphosphine oxide initiators, such as 2,4,6-trimethyl-benzoyldiphenylophosphine oxide; bis-(2,6-dichlorobenzoyl)-4-N-propylphenyl-phosphine oxide; and bis-(2,6-dichlorobenzoyl)-4-N-butylphenyl-phosphine oxide. Most preferred are 2,4,6-trimethyl-benzoyldiphenylophosphine oxide, commercially available as Lucirin[®] TPO from BASF Corporation (Charlotte, North Carolina), and Darocur 4265 from Ciba Geigy. See, for example, commonly-assigned, co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/908,229, filed on August 7, 1997, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

The amount of the first stage polymerization initiator in the coating compositions of the present invention will depend upon the curing conditions.

In general, however, the amount of first stage polymerization initiator contained in the mixture to be polymerized in stage of the present invention will be about 3 % (w/w) or less, preferably about 2 % (w/w) or less, and most preferably about 1 % (w/w).

5

In addition to the monomers of Formula I and the first stage polymerization initiator, a second stage cross-linking agent is optionally added to the coating compositions of the present invention prior to stage 1 polymerization. If not present during the stage 1 polymerization, then the
10 second stage cross-linking agent is added at the time the stage 1 polymer is dissolved to form a coating solution. Second stage cross-linking agents are selected from the group consisting of dibenzoyl peroxide, substituted dibenzoyl peroxide compounds, and dicumyl peroxide, many of which are commercially available. For example, dicumyl peroxide is available from Hercules
15 Incorporated (Wilmington, Delaware). Suitable substituted dibenzoyl peroxide compounds include 2,4-dichlorodibenzoylperoxide. Dicumyl peroxide and dibenzoyl peroxide are preferred for use with coating compositions consisting essentially of 2-phenylethyl acrylate and 2-phenylethyl methacrylate.

20 Whether added prior to stage 1 polymerization or at the time the stage 1 polymer is dissolved to form a coating solution, the amount of the second stage cross-linking agent contained in the coating compositions of the present invention will depend upon, among other factors, the degree of cross-linking desired. In general, however, the amount of second stage cross-linking agent
25 in necessary to cross-link the coating composition and secure it to the IOL optic surface will be about 1 - 10 % (w/w), and preferably about 3 - 5 % (w/w).

In order to prevent premature cross-linking, the coating compositions of the present invention do not contain any monomers having more than one
30 unsaturated bond. Such ingredients include the common cross-linking monomers ethyleneglycol dimethacrylate; diethylene glycol dimethacrylate; ethyleneglycol diacrylate; allyl methacrylates; allyl acrylates; 1,3-propanediol

dimethacrylate; 1,6-hexanediol dimethacrylate; 1,4-butanediol dimethacrylate; polyethyleneoxide diacrylates; and the like.

The coating compositions optionally include one or more ingredients
5 selected from the group consisting of UV absorbers and blue-light blocking colorants. The UV absorber and/or blue-light blocking colorant may be added either prior to stage 1 polymerization or at the time the stage 1 polymer is dissolved to form a coating solution. If added prior to stage 1 polymerization, the stage 1 polymerization initiator should be chosen so that the UV absorber and/or
10 blue-light blocking colorant do not significantly interfere with the stage 1 polymerization.

Ultraviolet absorbing chromophores can be any compound which absorbs light having a wavelength shorter than about 400 nm, but does not
15 absorb any substantial amount of visible light. It is preferred to use an ultraviolet absorbing compound that is copolymerizable with the monomers of Formula I or the can be covalently bound to the coating/IOL substrate during the second stage cross-linking. Suitable copolymerizable ultraviolet absorbing compounds are the substituted 2-hydroxybenzophenones disclosed in U.S.
20 Patent No. 4,304,895 and the 2-hydroxy-5-acryloxyphenyl-2H-benzotriazoles disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,528,311. The most preferred ultraviolet absorbing compound is 2-(3'-methallyl-2'-hydroxy-5'-methyl phenyl) benzotriazole.

25 If a UV-absorber is added prior to stage 1 polymerization, it is unlikely that a UV polymerization initiator may be used as the first stage polymerization initiator. In such cases, the first stage polymerization initiator will likely have to be either a thermal initiator or a blue-light initiator in order to avoid interference with the UV-absorber.

30 If a blue-light absorbing compound, e.g. a yellow dye, is included in the coating compositions of the present invention prior to stage 1 polymerization, then the first stage polymerization initiator will likely not be a blue-light

photoinitiator. In the event the coating composition contains both a UV-absorber and a blue-light absorbing compound prior to stage 1 polymerization, the first stage polymerization initiator will likely be a thermal initiator. Preferably, the blue-light absorber is copolymerizable with the monomers of Formula 1 or can
5 be covalently bound to the coating/IOL substrate during the second stage cross-linking. Suitable polymerizable blue-light blocking chromophores include those disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,470,932.

The coating composition of this invention is prepared by forming a
10 mixture comprising, in the desired proportions, the monomers of Formula I, the first stage polymerization initiator, and optionally one or more of the ingredients selected from the group consisting of second stage cross-linking agents, UV absorbing compounds, and blue-light absorbing compounds. The coating composition is then polymerized by activating (e.g., using heat, UV- or blue-light)
15 the first stage polymerization initiator, being careful not to activate the second stage cross-linking agent, if present.

In the case where the first stage polymerization initiator is a low temperature thermal initiator and the second stage cross-linking agent is dicumyl
20 peroxide, the thermal initiator may be activated by exposure to temperatures of up to approximately 50 °C or so without activating the dicumyl peroxide. In the case where the second stage cross-linking agent is a dibenzoyl peroxide or a substituted dibenzoyl peroxide, the curing temperature for stage 1 will generally be about 40 °C or less. The curing parameters, e.g., length of exposure and
25 temperature or intensity of light source, are preferably chosen to accomplish complete polymerization.

After the first stage polymerization is complete, the resulting polymer is dissolved in a solvent to form a coating solution. Suitable solvents include
30 ketones, such as acetone, methylethylketone and 2-pentanone. The preferred solvent for use with coating compositions consisting essentially of 2-phenylethyl acrylate and 2-phenylethyl methacrylate is 2-pentanone. For the particular coating composition consisting essentially of 2-phenylethyl acrylate and 2-

phenylethyl methacrylate, acetone did not work and methylethyl ketone worked only marginally well as a solvent. The solvent should be chosen such that it has an evaporation rate that is neither too fast (resulting in a hazy or frosty coating) nor too slow (meaning the solvent seems to never dry). Additionally, the application time for the coating should be controlled to minimize any swelling of the substrate material so that there is little or no disturbance of the coating's or substrate's surface. The concentration of the dissolved polymer is not essential, and can be, for example, 5 - 8% (w/w) of the coating solution. At this time, the second stage cross-linking agent, and any UV absorber or blue-light absorbing compound may be added, if not already contained in the mixture that was polymerized in stage 1.

After the coating solution has been formed, it is applied to the IOL material ("substrate material") to be coated. The substrate material may comprise any ophthalmically acceptable material, such as silicone, hydrogels or hydrophobic acrylic materials. If the substrate is a hydrogel material having a linear swell factor of about 5 % or greater, plasticizers should be used to minimize swelling effects during hydration. The plasticizer does not change the water content of the hydrogel material, but changes the swell factor. When hydrated, water exchanges with the plasticizer.

The coatings of the present invention may be used in conjunction with substrate materials intended for use as a "hard" IOL (that is inserted in an unfolded state) or a "foldable" or "soft" IOL (that is inserted in a folded or compressed state). For example, the IOL material to be coated could be those IOL materials disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,693,095 or 5,331,073. A preferred IOL material comprises 2-phenylethyl acrylate and 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate. All that is necessary is that the coating material be different than the IOL material to be coated. Thus, the IOL material to be coated can comprise two or more monomers of formula I, as long as at least one of the two or more monomers of formula I contained in the coating material is different from those comprising the IOL material. The coating may be applied to the portion of the IOL material constituting the optic's entire posterior surface or to only a peripheral band of the

posterior surface. Additionally, the optic's anterior surface or a peripheral band of the anterior surface may be coated.

In order to prepare the IOL material to be coated so that it is capable of receiving the coating, it may be necessary or desirable to expose the surface to be coated to a reactive plasma gas prior to applying the coating composition of the present invention. Suitable reactive plasma gases include oxidizing gases, such as oxygen gas. A suitable plasma chamber is the P²CIM B-Series plasma chamber made by Advanced Plasma Systems, Inc. Using such a chamber, suitable plasma parameters include: power = 400 W, plasma gas = oxygen; pressure of the plasma gas = 225 mTorr; exposure time = 4 - 6 minutes.

The coating solution may be applied to the IOL material to be coated by dip coating or spin coating, for example. The thickness of the coating should be at least about 0.3 μm , preferably at least about 1 - 2 μm , but may be much thicker if desired. A one-dip coating using a coating solution comprising about 5 - 8 % (w/w) of poly(2-phenylethyl acrylate/2-phenylethyl methacrylate) and about 5 % of dibenzoyl peroxide will give approximately a 0.3 - 0.6 μm coating.

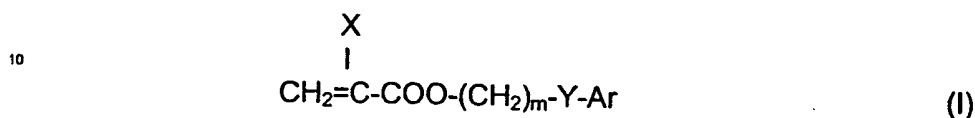
Once the coating solution has been contacted with the IOL material to be coated, the coating is allowed to air dry and is then secured to the IOL material by activating the second stage cross-linking agent. Activation of the second stage cross-linking agent "secures" the coating to the IOL material by covalently bonding the coating material to the IOL material. Additionally, activation of the second stage cross-linking agent results in cross-linking of the coating material itself. The second stage cross-linking agent can be activated by heating or, particularly for thin (e.g., 0.5 μm or less) coatings, exposure to electron beam radiation. For example, if the second stage cross-linking agent is dibenzoyl peroxide, the second stage cross-linking agent can be activated by heating at 95 - 100 °C for approximately four hours in either a vacuum oven (< 5 mm Hg) or in an inert (e.g., Argon) atmosphere at atmospheric conditions. The temperature and length of exposure to heat are determined by the identity and amount of the second stage cross-linking agent and the desired degree of cross-linking to be

achieved. In general, however, the temperature will be about 90°C or more where the second stage cross-linking agent is a dibenzoyl peroxide or a substituted dibenzoyl peroxide. In the case where the second stage cross-linking agent is dicumyl peroxide, the activation temperature will be about 125 °C or greater. The duration of heating to achieve the second-stage cross-linking is preferably about four times the half-life of the second stage cross-linking agent at the chosen activation temperature. In the case of dicumyl peroxide and an activation temperature of approximately 135 °C, the duration of heating is approximately 4 hours. Electron beam sources are commercially available, and include the Min-EB product available from American International Technologies, Inc.

The invention has been described by reference to certain preferred embodiments; however, it should be understood that it may be embodied in other specific forms or variations thereof without departing from its spirit or essential characteristics. The embodiments described above are therefore considered to be illustrative in all respects and not restrictive, the scope of the invention being indicated by the appended claims rather than by the foregoing description.

WE CLAIM:

1. A coated intraocular lens comprising a substrate material and a coating material for making the intraocular lens more biocompatible and reducing the risk of posterior capsule opacification, wherein the coating material is different than the substrate material and the coating material consists essentially of at least two aryl acrylic hydrophobic monomers of the formula



wherein: X is H or CH₃;

m is 0-10;

Y is nothing, O, S, or NR wherein R is H, CH₃, C_nH_{2n+1} (n=1-10) iso OC₃H₇, C₆H₅, or CH₂C₆H₅;

Ar is any aromatic ring which can be unsubstituted or substituted with CH₃, C₂H₅, n-C₃H₇, iso-C₃H₇, OCH₃, C₆H₁₁, Cl, Br, C₆H₅, or CH₂C₆H₅.

2. The coated intraocular lens of Claim 1 wherein the aryl acrylic hydrophobic monomers of formula I are chosen from the group consisting of 2-phenoxyethyl acrylate; 2-phenylethylthio acrylate; 2-phenylethylamino acrylate; phenyl acrylate; benzyl acrylate; 2-phenylethyl acrylate; 3-phenylpropyl acrylate; 3-phenoxypropyl acrylate; 4-phenylbutyl acrylate; 4-phenoxybutyl acrylate; 4-methylphenyl acrylate; 4-methylbenzyl acrylate; 2-2-methylphenylethyl acrylate; 2-3-methylphenylethyl acrylate; 2-4-methylphenylethyl acrylate; and their corresponding methacrylate compounds.

3. The coated intraocular lens of Claim 2 wherein the aryl acrylic hydrophobic monomers of formula I are chosen from the group consisting of 2-phenylethyl acrylate; 2-phenoxyethyl acrylate; 3-phenylpropyl acrylate; 3-phenoxypropyl acrylate; 4-phenylbutyl acrylate; 4-phenoxybutyl acrylate; and their corresponding methacrylate compounds.

4. The coated intraocular lens of Claim 1 wherein the aryl acrylic hydrophobic monomers of formula I consist essentially of at least one monomer wherein X = H and at least one monomer wherein X = CH₃.

5. The coated intraocular lens of Claim 4 wherein the aryl acrylic hydrophobic monomers of formula I are 2-phenylethyl acrylate and 2-phenylethyl methacrylate.

6. The coated intraocular lens of Claim 1 wherein the coating material further comprises one or more ingredients selected from the group consisting of UV absorbing compounds and blue-light absorbing compounds.

7. The coated intraocular lens of Claim 1 wherein the substrate material is selected from the group consisting of silicone materials, hydrogel materials, and hydrophobic acrylic materials.

8. A method of applying a coating material to an intraocular lens substrate material, wherein the coating material and the substrate material are different and the coating material comprises an anterior surface and a posterior surface, comprising the steps of

a) polymerizing a coating composition consisting essentially of at least two aryl acrylic hydrophobic monomers of the formula



wherein: X is H or CH₃;

m is 0-10;

Y is nothing, O, S, or NR wherein R is H, CH₃, C_nH_{2n+1} (n=1-10) iso OC₃H₇, C₆H₅, or CH₂C₆H₅;

Ar is any aromatic ring which can be unsubstituted or substituted

with CH₃, C₂H₅, n-C₃H₇, iso-C₃H₇, OCH₃, C₆H₁₁, Cl, Br, C₆H₅, or CH₂C₆H₅;

and a first stage polymerization initiator selected from the group consisting of thermal initiators and photoinitiators, to form an uncross-linked polymer;

b) dissolving the uncross-linked polymer formed in step (a) in a solvent to form a coating solution;

5 c) applying the coating solution formed in step (b) to the substrate material; and

d) securing the coating solution to the substrate material by activating the second-stage cross-linking agent, provided that at least one of the coating composition of step (a) and the coating solution of step (b) contains a second
10 stage cross-linking agent selected from the group consisting of dibenzoyl peroxide; substituted dibenzoyl peroxide compounds; and dicumyl peroxide.

9. The method of Claim 8 wherein at least one of the coating composition of step (a) and the coating solution of step (b) further comprises one or more
15 ingredients selected from the group consisting of UV absorbing compounds and blue-light absorbing compounds.

10. The method of Claim 8 wherein the first stage polymerization initiator is selected from the group consisting of thermal initiators; UV- initiators and blue-
20 light initiators.

11. The method of Claim 8 wherein the solvent in step (b) is 2-pentanone.

12. The method of Claim 8 wherein the coating solution of step (b) is applied
25 to the entire posterior surface of the substrate material.

13. The method of Claim 8 wherein the coating solution of step (b) is applied to only a peripheral band of the posterior surface of the substrate material.

30 14. The method of Claim 13 wherein the coating solution of step (b) is also applied to a peripheral band of the anterior surface of the substrate material.

15. The method of Claim 12 wherein the coating solution of step (b) is also applied to a peripheral band of the anterior surface of the substrate material.

16. The method of Claim 8 wherein the second stage cross-linking agent is selected from the group consisting of dibenzoyl peroxide; dichlorodibenzoyl peroxide; and dicumyl peroxide.

17. The method of Claim 8 wherein the substrate material is exposed to a reactive gas plasma prior to step (c).

18. The method of Claim 17 wherein the reactive plasma gas is an oxidizing gas.

19. The method of Claim 8 wherein the coating solution is applied in step (c) by means of dip coating or spin coating.

20. The method of Claim 8 wherein the coating solution applied in step (c) is allowed to air dry prior to activating the second stage cross-linking agent in step (d).

21. The method of Claim 8 wherein the second stage cross-linking agent is activated by exposure to heat or electron beam radiation.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 99/07363

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 6 A61L27/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 A61L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 290 892 A (NAMDARAN FARHAD H ET AL) 1 March 1994 (1994-03-01) abstract column 3, line 10-51 column 4, line 2,44-67; table 2 ----	1-6,8,9, 16,21
A	US 5 618 316 A (HOFFMAN ALLAN S ET AL) 8 April 1997 (1997-04-08) column 2, line 32-37,46-60; claim 3 ----	1-5,7,8, 17
A	US 5 470 932 A (JINKERSON DAVID L) 28 November 1995 (1995-11-28) cited in the application column 1, line 6-20 ----- -/--	1,6,8, 16,21



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Date of the actual completion of the international search

31 August 1999

Date of mailing of the international search report

08/09/1999

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 99/07363

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